

**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, March 14, 2007**

**HB 7089, An Act Concerning Supervising Physicians For Physician Assistants**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to present testimony concerning **HB 7089, An Act Concerning Supervising Physicians For Physician Assistants**. CHA supports this bill.

HB 7089 would remove an unnecessary and outmoded registration process for physicians who oversee physician assistants. CHA applauds the Department of Public Health for taking the initiative to remove the ineffective mechanism that merely adds cost to an already burdened administrative system. Adopting efficiencies in healthcare that do not adversely affect quality, including those that streamline governmental processes, serves the best interests of Connecticut's patients.

In order to fully remove the administrative burden of the registration process for supervising physicians and create an internally consistent statutory scheme, CHA requests that the bill be amended to also remove references to registration of supervising physicians found in two additional subsections of the same statute.

In section 20-12a, specifically subsections 20-12a(7)(A)(vi) and 20-12a(7)(B)(vi), delete text from the last line in each subsection to remove "registered with the department pursuant to section 20-20c":

(7) (A) "Supervision" in hospital settings means the exercise by the supervising physician of oversight, control and direction of the services of a physician assistant. Supervision includes but is not limited to: (i) Continuous availability of direct communication either in person or by radio, telephone or telecommunications between the physician assistant and the supervising physician; (ii) active and continuing overview of the physician assistant's activities to ensure that the supervising physician's directions are being implemented and to support the physician assistant in the performance of his or her services; (iii) personal review by the supervising physician of the physician assistant's practice at least weekly or more frequently as necessary to ensure quality patient care; (iv) review of the charts and records of the physician assistant on a regular basis as necessary to ensure quality patient care; (v) delineation of a predetermined plan for emergency situations; and (vi)

designation of an alternate licensed physician [registered with the department pursuant to section 20-12c,] in the absence of the supervising physician.

(B) "Supervision" in settings other than hospital settings means the exercise by the supervising physician of oversight, control and direction of the services of a physician assistant. Supervision includes, but is not limited to: (i) Continuous availability of direct communication either in person or by radio, telephone or telecommunications between the physician assistant and the supervising physician; (ii) active and continuing overview of the physician assistant's activities to ensure that the supervising physician's directions are being implemented and to support the physician assistant in the performance of his or her services; (iii) personal review by the supervising physician of the physician assistant's services through a face-to-face meeting with the physician assistant, at least weekly or more frequently as necessary to ensure quality patient care, at a facility or practice location where the physician assistant or supervising physician performs services; (iv) review of the charts and records of the physician assistant on a regular basis as necessary to ensure quality patient care and written documentation by the supervising physician of such review at the facility or practice location where the physician assistant or supervising physician performs services; (v) delineation of a predetermined plan for emergency situations; and (vi) designation of an alternate licensed physician [registered with the department pursuant to section 20-12c,] in the absence of the supervising physician.

These two subdivisions are included in section 24 of **HB 7163, An Act Concerning Revisions To Department Of Public Health Statutes**. For clarity CHA respectfully requests that either section 24 of HB 7163 be added to this bill or this bill be added to HB 7163.

Thank you for consideration of our position.

For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.